

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A data transfer method for executing data read/write between a center machine and a target machine which are connected via a communication line,
the center machine
preparing an e-mail in a predetermined XML format for read-out of data stored in the target machine, and
sending the prepared e-mail of the predetermined XML format to the target machine via the communication line,
the target machine
~~analyzing~~ storing the e-mail of the predetermined XML format received via the communication line,
analyzing the stored e-mail of the predetermined XML format using analysis software stored in advance in the target machine,
reading out the data of a designated area in a non-volatile memory stored in the target machine on the basis of ~~an~~ the analysis result,
preparing an e-mail of a predetermined XML format, which contains the read-out data, and
sending the prepared e-mail of the predetermined XML format to the center machine via the communication line, and
the center machine
~~analyzing~~ storing the e-mail of the predetermined XML format received from the target machine via the communication line, and obtaining data by analyzing the stored e-mail of the predetermined XML format using analysis software stored in advance in the center machine.
2. (Original) A data transfer method according to claim 1, wherein said center machine is a personal computer.

3. (Original) A data transfer method according to claim 1, wherein said communication line is the Internet.

4. Canceled

5. (Original) A data transfer method according to claim 1, wherein said center machine and said target machine are provided with firewalls at connection stages with the Internet.

6. (Currently amended) A data transfer method for executing data read/write between a center machine and a target machine which are connected via a communication line,

the center machine

preparing an e-mail in a predetermined XML format which contains data to be written in the target machine, and

sending the prepared e-mail of the predetermined XML format to the target machine via the communication line,

the target machine

analyzing storing the e-mail of the predetermined XML format received via the communication line,

analyzing the stored e-mail of the predetermined XML format using analysis software stored in advance in the target machine,

storing writing data in a designated area in a non-volatile memory stored in the analyzed data in a predetermined area in the target machine based on a result of the analysis,

preparing an ACK e-mail in a predetermined XML format when ~~the data has been stored~~ writing of the data has been completed, and

sending the prepared ACK e-mail of the predetermined XML format to the center machine via the communication line, and

the center machine ~~analyzing storing~~ the ACK e-mail of the predetermined XML format received from the target machine via the communication line, and confirming that data

has normally been written by analyzing the stored e-mail of the predetermined XML format using analysis software stored in advance in the center machine.

7. (Currently amended) A data transfer method for executing data read/write between a center machine and a target machine which are connected via a communication line,

the target machine

preparing an e-mail in a predetermined XML format which contains notice information to be sent to the center machine, and

sending the prepared e-mail of the predetermined XML format to the center machine via the communication line, and

the center machine

~~analyzing~~ storing the e-mail of the predetermined XML format received from the target machine via the communication line, and

obtaining the notice information from the target machine by analyzing the stored e-mail of the predetermined XML format using analysis software stored in advance in the center machine.

8. (Currently amended) A data transfer method for executing data read/write between a center machine and an image forming apparatus which are connected to the Internet ~~via a communication line~~,

the center machine

preparing an e-mail in a predetermined XML format for read-out of data stored in the image forming apparatus, and

sending the prepared e-mail of the predetermined XML format to the image forming apparatus via the Internet,

the image forming apparatus

~~analyzing~~ storing the e-mail of the predetermined XML format received via the Internet,

analyzing the stored e-mail of the predetermined XML format using analysis software stored in advance in the image forming apparatus.

reading out the data of a designated area in a non-volatile memory stored in the image forming apparatus on the basis of ~~an~~ the analysis result,

preparing an e-mail of a predetermined XML format, which contains the read-out data, and

sending the prepared e-mail of the predetermined XML format to the center machine via the Internet, and

the center machine ~~analyzing~~ storing the e-mail of the predetermined XML format received from the image forming apparatus via the Internet, and obtaining data by analyzing the stored e-mail of the predetermined XML format using analysis software stored in advance in the center machine.

9. (Currently amended) A data transfer method for executing data read/write between a center machine and an image forming apparatus which are connected to the Internet ~~via a communication line~~,

the center machine

preparing an e-mail in a predetermined XML format which contains data to be written in the image forming apparatus, and

sending the prepared e-mail of the predetermined XML format to the image forming apparatus via the Internet,

the image forming apparatus

~~analyzing~~ storing the e-mail of the predetermined XML format received via the Internet,

analyzing the stored e-mail of the predetermined XML format using analysis software stored in advance in the image forming apparatus,

~~storing~~ writing data in a designated area in a non-volatile memory stored in the ~~analyzed data in a predetermined area in~~ the image forming apparatus based on a result of the analysis,

preparing an ACK e-mail in a predetermined XML format when ~~the data has been~~ stored writing of the data has been completed, and

sending the prepared ACK e-mail of the predetermined XML format to the center machine via the Internet, and

the center machine ~~analyzing~~ storing the ACK e-mail of the predetermined XML format received from the image forming apparatus via the Internet, and confirming that data has normally been written by analyzing the stored e-mail of the predetermined XML format using analysis software stored in advance in the center machine.

10. (Currently amended) A data transfer method for executing data read/write between a center machine and an image forming apparatus which are connected to the Internet via a communication line,

the image forming apparatus

preparing an e-mail in a predetermined XML format which contains notice information to be sent to the center machine, and

sending the prepared e-mail of the predetermined XML format to the center machine via the Internet, and

the center machine

analyzing the e-mail of the predetermined XML format received from the image forming apparatus via the Internet, and

obtaining the notice information from the image forming apparatus by analyzing the stored e-mail of the predetermined XML format using analysis software stored in advance in the center machine.

11. (New) A data transfer method according to claim 1, wherein the e-mail prepared by the center machine is prepared in a predetermined XML format as “read-out of telephone book” for read-out of data stored in the target machine.

12. (New) A data transfer method according to claim 6, wherein the e-mail prepared by the center machine is prepared in a predetermined XML format which contains data to be written in the target machine as “write of telephone book,” and

wherein the data written in the designated area in the non-volatile memory stored in the target machine is written in the designated area as “write of designated area in telephone book.”

13. (New) A data transfer method according to claim 8, wherein the e-mail prepared by the center machine is prepared in a predetermined XML format as “read-out of telephone book” for read-out of data stored in the target machine.

14. (New) A data transfer method according to claim 9, wherein the e-mail prepared by the center machine is prepared in a predetermined XML format which contains data to be written in the target machine as “write of telephone book,” and

wherein the data written in the designated area in the non-volatile memory stored in the target machine is written in the designated area as “write of designated area in telephone book.”